

ready to sign, but the Navy cannot sign these contracts without an appropriations bill. We risk throwing away savings on the order of hundreds of millions of dollars if we do not enact the fiscal year 2013 appropriations bill.

The ramifications of inaction on a full-year appropriations bill are not limited to the 6 months remaining in this fiscal year. Failing to enact a full-year appropriations bill that allows new starts and cost-saving multiyear procurement contracts will jeopardize the long-term stability in the shipbuilding industrial base that the Congress and the Navy have worked long and hard to preserve.

When I questioned Deputy Secretary Carter on February 14, 2013, at a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing about what the continuing resolution means for shipbuilding, he testified that “we’re in the absurd position where we’re five months into the fiscal year and we have the authority to build the ships that we built last year and no authority to build the ships that we plan to build this year. That’s crazy. . . . And that has nothing to do with sequester, by the way, that’s the C.R.”

The existing continuing resolution expires on March 27. That deadline is just 4 weeks away, but each week that passes puts our military increasingly at risk and makes it less prepared.

I know the chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and its ranking member, Senator MIKULSKI and Senator SHELBY, share my concern that continuing resolutions are not the way to govern. I am also encouraged about reports that the House of Representatives may consider a bill next week which includes a full-year defense and a full-year veterans affairs and military construction budget.

At least as far back as 1974, Congress has never failed to pass a Department of Defense appropriations bill. Now is not the time, with troops in the field and the looming threat of sequestration, to establish a dangerous precedent of denying our military services the support they need to accomplish the mission we have asked them to perform.

This year’s continuing resolution hurts our military readiness now and, even more, in the future.

It is time to show the American people that we can act responsibly before the very last minute. The men and women who serve our country are performing every task we have asked of them. It is long overdue for the Congress to do the same, so I urge the Senate to act to replace the current CR with a full-year Department of Defense appropriations bill as our amendment would provide.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD D. DEBOBES

Mr. McCAIN. Madam President, today I honor an exceptional public servant and patriot. After a lifetime of service to our Nation, Richard D.

“Rick” DeBobes is retiring from his position as staff director of the Senate Armed Services Committee, effective February 28, 2013. On this occasion, it is fitting to recognize Rick’s 50 years of uniformed and civilian service to our Nation.

Rick began his career as a naval officer, serving 26 exemplary years in jobs that included directing the International Negotiations Branch of the Navy’s Judge Advocate General, commanding the Naval Legal Service Office, and finally serving as the legal adviser and legislative assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, where he helped craft policies that have shaped our modern joint military force. Such a career, in and of itself, illustrates a commitment to causes greater than self-interest.

Rick’s devotion to service and excellence continued long after he left active duty. Upon his retirement from the Navy, he joined the Senate Armed Services Committee as counsel, advising committee members on issues relating to national security strategy, defense policy, foreign affairs, and Department of Defense organization and management. Rick’s authoritative analysis and counsel to members distilled complex issues and often served as a basis for common understanding and problem solving. Few were surprised then, when in 2003 he was asked by Senator CARL LEVIN to be the committee’s staff director. Ten years on, the wisdom of that selection is evident. Rick’s steady management of the committee, amidst strong personalities and throughout the occasionally animated policy debates, has yielded the admiration of his professional colleagues in Congress and the Department of Defense, and a long record of legislative success. Thoughtful leaders throughout government will feel his absence.

I join many past and present members of the Senate Armed Services Committee in my gratitude to Rick DeBobes for his outstanding leadership in uniform and in Congress, and his unceasing support for members of the Armed Forces. I wish him and his wife Margaret “fair winds and following seas.”

RETIREMENT OF WAYNE LEONARD

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Wayne Leonard, who served as Entergy’s chief executive officer from 1999 and chairman/CEO from 2006 until January 2013. Over the course of those years, his visionary leadership as Entergy’s top executive also encompassed impassioned advocacy for issues such as climate change, poverty and social justice. To a great extent, his compassion for people from all walks of life and his desire to protect the environment for future generations came to define his tenure at Entergy.

When Leonard was named CEO in 1999, he began calling for action by business, community, and political leaders to break the cycle of poverty

that has stunted economic growth in the mid-South region for generations. Since that time, Entergy has donated more than \$50 million to charitable initiatives and advocacy efforts that successfully helped move low-income residents toward self-sufficiency. Among them were campaigns to improve early childhood education programs and financial support of a matched-savings program that has helped 19,000 people and created an economic impact of \$69 million over the last decade.

Leonard pioneered the pursuit of sustainability within his industry. Early on, he recognized the importance to the industry’s future of operating in an economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable manner. His achievements include a number of landmarks that set the standard and shaped the future for the energy industry. Under his leadership, in 2001 Entergy became the first utility in the United States to commit to voluntarily reduce greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time, work force safety, customer satisfaction, and strong regulatory relationships were always top priorities for Leonard. Entergy has delivered top-quartile shareholder return—the overarching financial goal Leonard set for the company—since he was announced as CEO in 1998.

After the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Leonard led the restoration not just of a company but also a city and its surrounding region. Entergy and its charitable foundation donated more than \$20 million to non-profits working to rebuild the physical, intellectual, and cultural assets of New Orleans. When Katrina’s damages prompted Entergy to consider relocating its corporate headquarters, Leonard lobbied to keep Entergy in New Orleans and take a lead role in the city’s revitalization and renewal.

Leonard has personally received numerous national honors in recognition of his outstanding leadership, including Platts Global Energy CEO of the Year, the Anti-Defamation League Torch of Liberty Award, and the National Wildlife Federation Achievement Award. During his tenure, Entergy was named to the Dow Jones Sustainability Index for 11 consecutive years for demonstrating strong financial performance and outstanding leadership in environmental and social commitment.

Leonard’s passionate commitment to building a strong, sustainable company, community, and energy industry never wavered in 14 years. In honor of his legacy, Entergy endowed a \$5 million charitable fund upon his retirement to continue his work on climate change, poverty, and social justice issues. The fund is being endowed through shareholder-funded donations to the Entergy Charitable Foundation, with Leonard serving as an adviser.

While I will miss working with Wayne to improve both New Orleans and Louisiana, I applaud the work he has done to leave my city and my State stronger, healthier, and on the path to a brighter future.